

53 Koorong St.,  
The Gap QLD 4061  
14-10-00

Dear George,

Thank you for the post-card from France/UK and thank you also for your letter of October 7 last. I would be happy to help with your investigation of details of uncle Harold's possible re-marriage and subsequent death. I didn't realise that he was living in Brisbane at the time of his death. Incidentally, the suburb is 'Taringa' not 'Tarinja'.

I have enclosed a few more books which I found and I thought you might like to have and also some other bits and pieces which dad must have collected over the years. I have included the typed notes, although I think I may have already sent you a copy, I couldn't remember and I didn't keep a copy of the letter.

As for uncle Harold, I have made a start by ringing several cemeteries in Brisbane and I have found that he was cremated at the Mt Thompson Crematorium & Memorial Gardens at Holland Park in Brisbane on March 12 1954. They said his ashes must have been scattered as they have no record of a plaque in his name. I asked if they could give me details of who paid the account or any other information, however they said it is their policy not to release such details. However, they did suggest that I should obtain a copy of his death certificate which should be useful.

I rang the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages to enquire about the procedure for getting it, but when I told them he was an uncle, they said I had to be a direct descendent in order to get a copy. As I am new at this game of tracing family history I would like to get your advice on the best way to go about getting a copy. Should I just write to them and enclose the fee and claim that I am a direct descendent?

During the next week or so I will visit 37 Coronation Drive and Adsett Street (as you did not include a number I assume you do not know it) and see what I can find. I will also look for any S.S. Stevens in the phone book and in the electoral rolls and for any Stevens in Adsett St or Coronation Drive. If you can suggest any other lines of investigation I might follow I would be happy to hear from you.

I don't yet have e-mail so I will keep you up to date with any results of the investigation by the traditional snail-mail.

Best of good wishes to Shirley and all the family.

Kindest regards



53 Koorong St.,  
The Gap QLD 4061  
14 November 2000

Dear George,

Just a short note to bring you up to date with the results of my search for details on uncle Harold.

But first, I hope your reunion went well and that you were able to enjoy yourself after all the hard work of organizing it. I was also sorry to hear about the theft. It would seem it is becoming difficult to know just who you can trust.

You will find enclosed some details of uncle Harold which I hope you can add to your collection. I went to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages and was told that because the person I was seeking data on, had been dead for less than 50 years, I had to be a direct descendent. As you suggested, I explained to them that you and I were his only known blood relatives and because it was so close to the 50 year limit, they relaxed the rule.

As you will note on the certificate, there is mention of an S.S. Stevens but they are shown as being no relative which I find most curious and a remarkable coincidence. Perhaps there was a de-facto relationship of some sort. Anyway I will make further enquiries in this regard by trying to search through old electoral rolls and telephone books. I visited 37 Coronation Drive, however as you can see on the photocopy, whatever was there in 1954 has now been replaced by the Children's Court. I will endeavour to find what was there at the time the letter was written, by a visit to the nearby library.

Best of good wishes to Shirley and all the family.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ian', written in dark ink.

53 Koorong St.,  
The Gap QLD 4061  
26 January 2001

Dear George,

I hope you both had a pleasant Christmas, although I imagine it would have been rather hectic if all the family were with you.

This is just another short note to bring you up to date with my investigations of uncle Harold.

I had no success trying to find what building had been at 37 Coronation Drive in the period about 1954. So I next tried looking up Telephone Directories and Electoral Rolls in the State Library.

I will describe the sequence of steps I followed so that you can decide if you think that the person I have traced is possibly the person you are looking for. I began with the 1950 Electoral Roll which listed the following :

'Stevens, Harold Robert, Adsett & Cunningham Sts, Taringa, Supervisor. M'  
'Stevens, Sylvia Stanley, Adsett & Cunningham Sts, Taringa, Home duties F'

The same two names and details were listed under both the 1952 and 1954 Rolls.

The 1953 Telephone Directory had the following listing :

'Stevens, H.R. 34 Adsett Taringa' – but there was no listing for S.S. Stevens

The 1954 (Nov) Telephone Directory had no listing for a H.R. Stevens (as you would expect as he died earlier that year), however there was the following two listings :

'Stevens, Sylvia, 37-41 Coronation Drive'  
'Stevens, Sylvia S, 34 Adsett Taringa'

Based on Telephone Directory and Electoral Roll listings I followed her from 34 Adsett St Taringa in 1954 till 1972 when I believe she moved to 1/87 Swann Rd Taringa where she remained until 1997. The 1998 Roll had the following listing :

'Stevens, Sylvia – Iona Village, Brookfield Rd. Kenmore Hills, 4069'

In the current Brisbane Telephone Directory there is a listing for an S.S. Stevens at 129 Brookfield Rd Kenmore, (07) 3378 0663 which is the address of the 'Iona Retirement Village'. I have tried ringing the above number on several occasions, but have never got an answer.

I also rang the Iona Retirement Village (which is listed in the phone book under a different number) and explained the situation to them. They suggested that you write to them setting out the details. The person I spoke to explained that there is a retirement village , a hostel and a nursing home at this one site and they were reluctant to give out personal details of their residents without a written request.

I will try to contact the S.S. Stevens listed in the phone book at (07) 3378 0663 and perhaps you could try writing to the retirement village as you could better explain what you would like. The address is :

The Director of Nursing  
Iona Retirement Village  
129 Brookfield Rd.,  
Kenmore QLD 4069  
Tel (07) 3878 1988

If I manage to get an answer to my phone call I will let you know the details.

Best of good wishes to Shirley and all the family.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'J. M.', located below the typed text 'Kindest regards'.

FILE *copy*

12 Minerva Avenue  
Vincentia NSW 2540  
Tel 02 4441 6992  
email: [stevegeorge@shoalhaven.net.au](mailto:stevegeorge@shoalhaven.net.au)  
January 30, 2001

The Director of Nursing  
Iona Retirement Village  
129 Brookfield Road  
Kenmore Queensland 4069

Dear Director,

This is a request of you to act as a communications intermediary between me and one of your residents, if having read this letter you feel it appropriate to do so. The person I want to contact is Mrs Sylvia Stevens, who was the wife of my uncle Harold Stevens deceased. I have never had any contact previously with Sylvia, and at this stage of her life she may resent or feel apprehensive about a direct approach from me. My reason for wanting to make contact is that I am searching for historical information about Harold.

f The background to my request is as follows. I am now 72 years of age, and like some of my generation I am recording family history notes so that in the years ahead, my two children and four grandsons will have some information about their antecedents. One of the history gaps I am trying to fill in is that of my father's brother Harold, who I barely knew and who I last saw perhaps 60 years ago. ~~Perhaps naively~~, I am hoping that communication with Sylvia would enable me to build on the paucity of current information

The little I know of Harold is that he was born at Point Lonsdale Victoria on 2/9/1900, the third child of George Frederick Willam Stevens and Emma nee Daws, my grandparents. He was a builder by occupation, and he was a Merchant Seaman between 1934 and 1942 when he joined the Australian Military Forces. He later transferred to the A.I.F. and served in New Guinea, being discharged from the Army on 18/12/1944. He died at 34 Adsett Street Taringa on 10/3/1954.

Harold's only child, Elizabeth, by his first marriage cannot be contacted at her last known Melbourne address, and is possibly deceased. I have some photos of Harold as a child with long curls as was the style in those days. I have another of him as a very young man in a sailor's uniform, another taken 29 December 1916 dressed in his best suit complete with wing collar and tie, another as a grown man, possibly in 1940, and a group photo during an Army training program possibly 1942. And that is the extent of my very sketchy knowledge of my uncle.

Assisting me in my search is my brother Ian Stevens, a Brisbane resident. His patient and meticulous research of old Electoral Rolls and telephone directories has resulted in us locating Sylvia at your establishment.

The last thing I want to do is to cause Sylvia any discomfort or distress - she must be close to 90 now I'd imagine. However, if she is at all willing and able, I'd like to establish some sort of communication link with her, primarily to get her memories of Harold added to my little record.

Sincerely,

George Stevens

Mr George STEVENS  
Vincentia N.S.W.

129 Brookfield Rd  
KENMORE Q4064  
3.2.01

Your letter dated 30.1.01 addressed to the  
Director of Nursing, Iowa Nursing Home has been  
passed to me for reply.  
The subject matter written in your letter was an  
embarrassment to both parties as my accommodation  
is Not part of Nursing Care as you presumed.  
Your letter was an Infringement of my Privacy  
and any further communication or  
contact could be classed as Harassment.

C.S. STEVENS.